

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5896

INFO SECDEF WASHDC//ISA//

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4-7/SAME//

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF USLOK (FMS CASE AAA) WITH KUWAITI
DEFMIN

1. IN MEETING WITH DEFMIN SHAIKH SA'AD AUGUST 2 ON
ANOTHER MATTER REPORTED SEPARATELY, AMBASSADOR TOOK
OPPORTUNITY DRAW HIS ATTENTION TO DISCUSSIONS MOD STAFF
HAD SCHEDULED WITH CHIEF, USLOK, AUGUST 4 ON US DRAFT
STATEMENT OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR USLOK (GIVEN TO MOD JUNE 21).
AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED OUR STRONG INTEREST IN REACHING
AGREEMENT ON FMS CASE ESTABLISHING USLOK AS AGREED IN
EXCHANGE OF NOTES APRIL 15, 1975. HE INFORMED DEFMIN THAT
THE USG HAD BEEN DEFRAYING COSTS SINCE THAT TIME FOR
USLOK TEAM WHICH WAS WORKING FOR BENEFIT OF KUWAITIS.
WHILE USLOK STAFF HAS BEEN VERY CAPABLE AND EFFICIENT, IT
CANNOT PROPERLY HANDLE EXPANDING WORKLOAD INVOLVED IN FMS
PROGRAM; THEREFORE, WE URGENTLY NEED GOK AGREEMENT ON A
PROPOSED 8-MAN USLOK STAFF TO ENSURE SMOOTH ADMINISTRATION
OF FMS PROGRAM AND CATCH PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY DEVELOP.
AMBASSADOR ASKED DEFMIN TO URGE HIS STAFF TO DEAL WITH
THIS MATTER PROMPTLY AND SERIOUSLY IN THEIR MUTUAL
INTEREST. HE POINTED OUT THAT USLOK MEMBERS WOULD BE
WORKING WITHIN MOD ITSELF TO ENSURE CLOSEST POSSIBLE
COORDINATION.

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2. DEFMIN TOOK NOTE OF AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT AND SAID HE WOULD DRAW THIS TO ATTENTION OF HIS STAFF.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC ON QUICK RESOLUTION USLOK PROBLEM GIVEN LONG HISTORY OF THIS QUESTION AND TENDENCY OF MOD STAFF TO QUIBBLE OVER DETAILS. NEVERTHELESS, SCHEDULED MEETING OFFERS FIRST OPPORTUNITY IN SEVERAL WEEKS TO DEAL WITH USLOK PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE DISTURBING UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT MOD IS NOW STUDYING AND COMPARING OUR PROPOSED USLOK ARRANGEMENT TO CURRENT BRITISH AND PAKISTANI ONES, AND TO RECENTLY RECEIVED SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR MILITARY PRESENCE HERE. REPORT SUGGESTS THAT MOD MAY DESIRE TO STANDARDIZE ITS MILITARY PRESENCE AGREEMENTS, WHICH WOULD MEAN FURTHER AND CONSIDERABLE DELAY.
MAESTRONE

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